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L E T T E R

F R O M

Philip Thickskull, Esq.

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E D M U N D R A C K,

A . Q U A K E R .



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A N D

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A LETTER, &c.

To EDMUND RACK,

Secretary to the Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture and Arts in Somersetshire, Author of Mentor's Letters to Youth,---Of the Second Ode, addressed to Mrs. Macaulay, on her Birth-Day, and the reputed Author of a Letter, addressed to Philip Thickskull, Esq.

Respected Friend Edmund,

THOUGH I shall address thee somewhat in thy own style, I do not mean to throw any odium on that decent sect to which

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thou doest belong, because I do believe, they are in general, a very worthy and respectable body of people, and that their lives, conversation, and manners, come the nearest to the precepts, and manner of the life of Jesus Christ, and the Primitive Christians, of any people now living on the face of the earth; but on the other hand, when any of those people, under shelter of that simplicity of manners, and *profession* of Brotherly love and good will towards all mankind, enter into a Confederacy with Fools, or Knaves, to render a man, to whom he acknowledges himself obliged, and who had never offended him, either ridiculous, or odious, in the eyes of his neighbours, he must be the very arrantest Hypocrite living, and deserves to be held forth to the Public for his double dealings.

Now I do accuse thee my friend, of writing the Prose part of that *well circulated paper*,
addressed

addressed to Philip Thickskull, Esq. and the *Rhyming part* thereof, to thy friend *****.

I do also accuse thee, of endeavouring to 'get that nonsensical paper inserted in the Morning Post, and when thou didst fail thereof, that thou didst make some *friendly* alterations therein, and then caused it to be printed on the very worst paper which could bear thy type, and then disperse it among thy friends and neighbours, and thereby sow, (instead of thy Norfolk Turnep Seed) discord among all ranks and orders of people, in the City of Bath, yea,—and in the Village of Bath-Hampton also.

Now as thou hast thought proper, solemnly to deny, having any hand or any knowledge in the fabrication, or publication of the said letter to Philip Thickskull, Esq. I will give thee my reasons for believing that thou hast

said, and wrote, *the thing that is not*, and that, the TRUTH is still *in thee*.

First then I did ask thee, by a civil letter not believing it possible that thou couldst have wantonly attacked a man, (who never had offended thee, but who had on the contrary, befriended thee) in so foolish, wanton, and mischievous a manner, and when I did receive the following answer thereunto, I was thoroughly convinced of thy innocence, and did accordingly write thee in return, a friendly letter, expressing my satisfaction for thy own sake, more than mine own, that THOU HADST NOT DONE THE THING WHICH THOU OUGHTEST NOT. Yea verily; I did rejoice that Edmund Rack was innocent, and believe that it was the work of a young Priest, of the Established Religion of this Realm, rather than the production of the *meek*, the *humble* and *disinterested* Edmund Rack.

Philip T - - - , Esq.

These.

Sat. Morning, July 10.

Respected Friend,

ON my return home last Evening, thy favour of Yesterday met me. I commend thy Candour therein, although I am at a loss to know what part of my Conduct could justify thy giving Credit to a report so groundless and improbable.—Improbable indeed that I should descend to the dirty employment of abusing a person of whom I know nothing; from whom I have met with the greatest civilities, and receiv'd some particular favours. My disposition abhors so mean an employment; and my education and principles have taught me better than to practise it.—I therefore assure thee thy information is false; for I had not the smallest concern in any of the abuse that has been circulated; nor do I
 know

know the Author of one of the pieces alluded to.

Thy apprehension of my running into a Shop to avoid thee is entirely groundless. No such thought enter'd my mind. I went in because I had business there—so far from seeking to avoid thee, I have never conceiv'd such an idea, and am surprized at thy suspicion about it. There is not the Man living that I fear to meet, because there is not the Man living that I have injured; and if I have any enemies, it is more than I know of. Thou wilt give me pleasure in fulfilling thy engagement, to take a Family Dinner with me whenever it is convenient.

I am thine respectfully,

E. RACK.

P. S. I may possibly be able to trace out something. If so, I will inform thee.

Soon after the receipt however of the above letter, unto which I did write thee an answer rather

rather full soon, I did shew thy letter to the person who did first tell me that *thou wert the man*, and he did say unto me words to this effect.

“ That letter is false, and he must be a
 “ *sad* man who wrote the first paper, and
 “ a bad man to contradict it in the manner he
 “ has done, for he did write a part of the pa-
 “ per addressed to you, and I can prove it.”

Whereupon thou must remember, I did write a third letter to thee, and thou didst then, as it appeareth by thy *second reply*, avoid giving me that proof of thy innocence which was then so easily in thy power; for if thy accuser offered to take his oath that thou hadst said *the thing that is not*, thou oughtest also to have offered to have made thy affirmation that thou hadst said nothing but the truth, but instead thereof, thou didst write unto me

thus,

thus, and without asking even me who thy
Accuser is?

Philip T - - - , Esq.

Bath-Hampton,

*After what has already passed, I do
not think it necessary to give any further Answer to
the late ungentle and unjust Charge brought against
me, by one who seem determined to make Enemies
of his Friends.*

E. RACK.

Now, though it cannot be supposed that if
thou wert really guilty of the first wanton of-
fence, thou cou'd'st have any great scruple of
Conscience against making an Affirmation of
thy innocence: Yet there remained one great
objection thereunto, viz. that several people in
Bath were I hear, privy to thy being a party
concerned,

concerned, and thy affirmation in that case, would, at the same time it acquitted thee unto me, convict thee of affirming to them *the thing that is not.*

Now it will be asked, what provocation had Edmund Rack, to insult a friend who had subscribed towards giving him Fifty Pounds a year, as Secretary to the Society for encouragement of Arts and Agriculture, and thirty more for *one Room* in a House of *Forty Pounds a Year*, to sell Norfolk Turnep Seed in, wantonly to attack his benefactor? to which I can give no better answer than the following.

Why Edmund Rack is one of the creatures of Dr. Wilson, as well as one of the flatterers of Mrs. Macaulay. Edmund Rack wrote one of the never to be forgotten Odes, read on the never to be forgotten 2d of April, the day of the nativity of the never to be forgotten

gotten Historian, Mrs. Catherine Macaulay, and Philip Thickskull, Esq. the reputed Author of the *Prose Bath Guide*, had the temerity of publishing that *wicked book*, without even mentioning the name of Edmund Rack, or recommending to the Public, how *advantageous* a matter the Society for the encouragement of Agriculture must turn out *to him*, if *not* to the Public. And now Sir, I will give you my reasons for omitting that *important business*; I did not care to injure thee, nor did I care to impose upon the Public by saying the thing that is not.

Now give me leave to ask thee whether a gentleman, now living at Bath, a man of the first abilities, who was one of the first promoters of the Society in London, and for many years afterwards one of its chief Supports, did not write a letter and send it to *our friend*

Watts,

Watts, (the Printer of a late departed News-Paper) wherein he shewed by the clearest Arguments, that the Bath Society could tend to nothing, but a Lucrative Employment to thee? I say he did write such a letter, and thy friend Watts did shew it unto thee, and thou didst write to the said gentleman, acknowledging the truth of his observations, and at the same time thou didst beseech him not to publish the said letter, but to *become a subscribing member*, and *then* to attend the meetings, and in his place offer his reasons and give in his objections. *

And thou didst further beseech him, not to *publickly attack* an *infant Society*, and to spare them, if not for the sake of the public, yet for the sake of his esteemed, tho'—unknown friend, Edmund Rack, or Words to that effect.

* This was really a piece of good address. Mr. K-----t is in a very bad state of health, and unable to attend thy Society.

fect. This gentleman is a man of humanity, as well as understanding; he did not write that letter out of prejudice to thee, but for the public-good, and he declared to me, that as thou hadst wrote him a civil letter, requesting him to hold his hand, yea,—he would not lift it up against a man; whose “*principles and education teach him not to hold up his hand against any man.*” But I do aver, that he did then, and does now assert (and there is not a man in this Kingdom better qualified to perceive it) that the Society for the encouragement of Agriculture, and Arts, (established chiefly by thy address and means) can tend to nothing more than very Lucrative Employment to thee, or whoever is Secretary thereunto.

I shall conclude this my address to thee, in calling again upon thee, to make before a Magistrate, and in the Presence of that God, who

knows

knows all hearts, and from *whom no secret*
hid, the Affirmation I enclosed to thee, *and*,
 thou doest, I will then in public and in pri-
 vate, acknowledge that I have brought a false
 charge against thee; and I will ask God's par-
 don, thine, and the pardon of the public: But
 if thou doest not, then I am sure thou wilt be
 despised by that public at large, and discarded
 by that very respectable body of people, to
 whom thou *hast* hitherto belonged; not so
 much for writing the foolish paper in question,
 as for that deceitful, false, and hypocritical
 manner of denying it, and making, at the
 same time, the strongest profession of regard
 for a man, of whom thou first say'st thou *know-*
est nothing, and then, acknowledges to have re-
 ceived benefits from, and been obliged to.

There was no great matter I confess, in thy
 writing such a foolish Thickskull paper, but
 thy

manner of denying it, will I fear, lose thee the friendship of the Respectable Doctor, as well as his female Friend; and that he will not be in future so ready to take the Chair for the benefit of a man, who is so cordial with his enemies. Thou tellest me that “ *I will make my friends my enemies* ; I tell thee in return, that I abhor the friendship of Hypocrites and despise the contemptible *Abilities* of such *Writers* * as those who wrote those papers, addressed to thy esteemed friend,

Phil. Thickskull.

N. B. Before the above was sent to the Press, the Author wrote a civil letter to his *worthy friend Edmund Rack*, and called upon him to make an affirmation which was enclosed therein, declaring his not being the author,

* The *ingenious* performance in last Monday's Paper, of the Life, &c. of DON PHILLIP, Mr. Hooper informs the Author, came from ALFRED HOUSE.---An additional Sheet will be added to the Prose Bath Guide, and published next Monday.

thor, or any ways concerned in any part of the scurility lately thrown out, and telling him if he did not, he would be considered GUILTY.

—To this reasonable request, the said Edmund Rack remained silent!—*the Spirit did not move him to write any more to his respected Friend,*

Philip Thickskull,

✍ If thou *printest* any answer hereunto, do it as the Author of this has done, and put thereunto thy *real* name; as the Author is determined never to read one Word more of either thine, or thy neighbour W——'s anonymous Scurrility, having sufficient matter for all legal proceedings.

P. S. I cannot dismiss this trifling matter between thee and me, without hinting a word or two more to thee, as it is on a matter in
which

which the PUBLIC, and thee, are *somewhat* concerned.

As thou hast refused to make thy Affirmation of thy innocence respecting me, I now call upon thee, to say *yea*, or *nay*, whether thou hast not wrote letters unto *thyself*, got those letters transcribed by another hand, and then, produced at a certain meeting, (not a Quaker's meeting) those very letters, read them at that meeting, and thereby *hum'd* thy friends? I tell thee Edmund, THOU HAST; that thou art a sly fellow, and that thy ingenuity will soon shine forth, and give light unto men, even a stronger than that of thy Coals, thy Candles, and the various means thou employest to gain unto thee the good things of this World.

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